

## **IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please add the following new section to the beginning of the application:

### **CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a divisional of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/081,282, filed February 22, 2002, which is a continuation of PCT Application No. PCT/EP00/05919, filed June 26, 2000 and designating the U.S., which was not published under PCT Article 21(2) in English, and which claims priority of German Application No. 199 28 870.4, filed June 24, 1999.

On page 9, substitute the paragraph on lines 6 through 12 with the following:

In Fig. 1a, a single screw extruder for extruding a plastic material is designated with reference numeral 10. As will readily be understood by those skilled in the art, the term "extruder", as used throughout the specification and claims to describe the present invention, is used in its generic sense to identify the screw feed assembly per se. The term "extruder" is not intended to limit the application of the present invention to an extrusion machine or to preclude its use in other well known applications, such as for example the feed mechanism of an injection molding machine, which is sometimes referred to as a "plasticizing unit". The single screw extruder 10 (hereinafter simply called extruder) comprises a tubular barrel 11 which is made up of three single tubular barrel assemblies 12, 14, 16 in the present embodiment. The connection of the single assemblies 12, 14, 16 is achieved by respective flanges 17.

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel Claims 1-18 without prejudice.